

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as shown below:

The invention relates to a method and a system for operating a shelf in a commissioning system, comprising a shelf [(1)] and a storage and retrieval unit [(2)] associated therewith for storing and retrieving containers [(3)], trays or the like in or from the shelf. A height range of the shelf [(1)] comprising a plurality of superimposed shelf planes (~~a, b, c, d~~) can be operated as an autonomous shelf unit (~~I, II, III or IV~~) via at least one mechanically coupled longitudinally adjustable storage and retrieval unit [(2)] and at least two autonomous shelf units are provided for a single shelf. The invention is characterized in that the storage and retrieval unit [(2)] is displaced from a shelf unit (~~I, II, III or IV~~) to another shelf unit (~~II, III, IV or I, III, IV or I, II, IV or I, II, III~~) of the same shelf [(1)] or of another shelf [(1')], preferably to another shelf unit which is not yet provided with a storage and retrieval unit of the same kind.